

# INSIDEHOOK

## The 25 Most Interesting Vodkas to Enjoy Right Now

These bottles highlight flavor, character and terroir



Until early 2020, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) defined vodka in a very disagreeable way: It was a spirit “without distinctive character, aroma, taste or color.”

Thankfully, that description has been amended. But it’s not like craft distilleries weren’t already disproving that woefully generic definition.

“[That new definition] is much broader and allows for the kind of variation we have been seeing in vodka for 20-plus years,” says Chris Montana, master blender at American Liquor Co. Montana, who opened the country’s first Black-owned micro-distillery, Du Nord Craft Spirits, in Minneapolis, is an avowed and unapologetic vodka fan, even though he works with several different spirits.

“Vodka has a sense of place,” he tells InsideHook. “Because vodka can be made from nearly anything, it’s usually made from whatever is locally grown. If your region grows a lot of rye, your vodkas will probably be made from rye; the same can be true of corn, wheat, sorghum, potato, teff, barley or any other starch. Because there’s nowhere to hide in a vodka, the taste of that local grain is tattooed all over the spirit, and you can taste it in the glass.”



## Kástra Elión

Like a dirty martini? Hailing from a family-owned brand, this is the first premium vodka distilled from Greek olives.

**Drink:** Admittedly, the final product is actually not *that* olive intense, but offers buttery, sweet and pepper/spicy notes.